

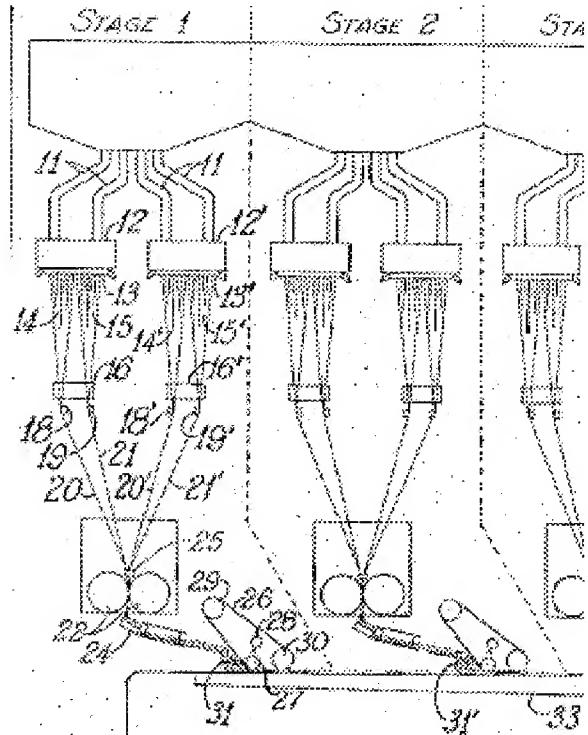
REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested. Claims 30-49 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-29 were previously canceled. Applicant's Attorney is currently amending the claims incorporating the agreed changes made during said interview and Examiner's proposed language in the Aug. 31, 2006 Advisory Action. As indicated in said Advisory Action, after the entry of the amendments, the only remaining rejection is that over Frickert et al. (U.S. Patent 2,875,503).

35 U.S.C.§ 102 Rejections

Claims 30-33, 37-38 and 41-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Frickert et al. (U.S. Patent 2,875,503). Applicant's Attorney respectfully requests Examiner reconsider said rejection in light of the current claim amendments and the following. Frickert et al. discloses:

The strands 20 and 21 are drawn through a guide eye 25 along with strands 20' and 21' of the second half of the forming stage. All four strands produced in each stage are pulled by a single pair of mated pulling wheels 22 (see Figures 4 to 6). The strands are pulled in spaced parallel alignment and are imparted sufficient kinetic energy that when driven against an oscillating deflector unit 24 they are deflected and deposited in accumulated relation between the conveyor 35 and an overhanging flight formed by a mesh-type foraminous chain 26 inclined downwardly toward the conveyor



35. The chain 26 is as wide as the conveyor line on which the strand is deposited and is supported by an upper level roll 29 and a pair of forwardly located lower level rolls 27 and 30 disposed a slight distance above the conveyor. The 10 rolls 27 and 30 are movable up and down which feature may be used to effect a gauging of the thickness of the material laid on the conveyor, if desired.

The **roll 30 is powered** to drive the chain 26 while a spray tube 28 located in the space bounded by the chain 26 is disposed above the roll 27 to spray or pour a compacting liquid such as water thereover for transfer over the accumulation of strand 31 between the upper and lower chains 26 and 35, respectively. Col. 2, ln. 68 - Col. 3, ln. 19.

Frickert et al. fails to disclose the apparatus as currently claimed. Examiner alleges that a pulling wheel 22 in stage 1 and a pulling wheel 22 in stage 2 teaches two self propelled collectors having a transfer and orientation means (26-30) therebetween. As is shown in the above excerpt, Frickert et al. teaches a powered chained conveyer rather than an idle roller as currently claimed. Furthermore, the idle roller of the current invention is positioned to transfer a fiber layer from a first collector to a second collector. As shown in the excerpt of Fig. 1 of Frickert et al., the powered chained conveyer (26-30) directs the fibers onto a conveyor rather than from a first collector to a second collector as currently claimed. Since Frickert et al. fails to disclose the current invention as currently claimed, Applicant's Attorney respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant's Attorney asserts that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant's Attorney therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the pending claims. However, if the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicant's Attorney of record would appreciate a call at (502) 584-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

MIDDLETON REUTLINGER

/Steven Witters/

Steve A. Witters, Reg. No. 53,923
2500 Brown & Williamson Tower
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 584-1135 phone
(502) 561-0442 fax
switters@middreut.com